

Fire-Rescue Department Engine Brownout Plan and Lifeguard Reductions Update



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
January 26, 2011
Fire Chief Javier Mainar

Report Focus

- 10th Monthly Report to PS&NS
- Brownout Plan
 - Workload and Response Time Statistics Update
 - Training and Fire Inspection Impacts/Adjustments
 - Significant Incident Analysis
- Lifeguard Budget Reductions
 - UCSD Lifeguard Contract Update
 - Beach Coverage Statistics Update
 - Training Impacts/Adjustments

Brownout Plan Refresher

- Brownouts Defined
 - Temporary closure of 0-8 fire engines per day
 - Implemented in the 13 stations with more than one response unit
- Brownouts implemented on February 6, 2010 as a budget reduction measure to save \$11.5M in overtime
- Each brown-out unit saves approximately \$1.4M annually
- Today's report covers Feb. 6 though Jan. 14, 2011
 - 109,638 emergency incidents during this period
 - 3,333 fires
 - 94,449 medical
 - 11,856 other

Statistical Summary of Brownouts

- Out-of-Service Time for Participating Engines = **33% - 99%**
- Compliance with 5 min. First Unit Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = **90%** Fire-Rescue Interim Target = **55%**
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **56%**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **54%**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **28% - 87%**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **24% - 80%**
- Average Response Times (minutes/seconds)
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **5:02**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **5:09**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **3:47 - 6:13**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **3:50 - 6:43**

Effective Fire Force

- Defined as the number of firefighters required to perform operations at a typical single family dwelling fire
 - 14-15 firefighters depending on whether an aerial ladder is deployed
 - SDFD achieves this with 3 engines, 1 truck and 1 battalion chief
- Compliance with 9 min. Effective Fire Force Arrival Response Time
 - National Standard = 90% Fire-Rescue Interim Target = 72%
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **73%**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **69%**
 - Participating Districts Same Period Last Year = **43% - 100%**
 - Participating Districts During Brownouts = **0% - 100%**
- Average Effective Fire Force Response Times
 - City-Wide Same Period Last Year = **7.67 minutes**
 - City-Wide During Brownouts = **8.14 minutes**

Analysis of Response to Residential Structure Fire

- Residential Structure Fire in North Clairemont on November 29, 2010, at 9:50 a.m.
- 9:48 engine response time
 - 4:48 longer than 5 minute goal
- 13:05 effective fire force assembly
 - 4:05 longer than 9 minute goal
- Delayed response due to
 - Brownout of Engine 28 (Serra Mesa)
 - Multiple units out of service mechanical in same area
 - A unit en route to scheduled training
- An earlier arrival would have reduced \$600,000 fire loss

Non-Emergency Impacts and Adjustments

- Reduced Manipulative Training Opportunities
 - Fewer units makes it difficult to go out-of-service for training
- Training Adjustments Made
 - Units allowed out-of-service at one time increased from 12 to 14
 - Units in Department-wide training sessions decreased from 5 to 3
 - More training delivered at fire stations or online
- Delays in Completing Fire Inspections
 - Fewer units are busier with emergency responses
 - Unable to keep up with fire inspection workload
 - 90-day overdue inspections up from 12% (April) to 31% (Jan.)
 - Results in greater risk and revenue collection delays
- Inspection Adjustments Made
 - Light duty staff assigned when available

Lifeguard Reductions

■ Personnel

- 8 Lifeguard FTEs
 - 4 filled (demoted to LGI)
 - 4 unfilled
- 1 Lifeguard II Training Coordinator
- Reduction of Hourly LG Budget
- Reduction of Overtime Budget



■ Non-Personnel

- Overlap Training Wednesdays Eliminated
- River Rescue Team Training Budget Cut by 50%

Impacts of Reductions

- Loss of Beach Coverage at Torrey Pines
 - 2 fulltime LGs in Fall, Winter and Spring/1 fulltime LG in Summer
 - 3 hourly LGs on weekdays in Summer and 4 hourly LGs on weekends
 - Hourly LG positions during Spring Break and Spring/Fall weekends
- Operational Adjustments Made for Beach Coverage
 - 2 hourly LGs patrolled Torrey Pines Beach in summer
 - Standard Operating Procedure for Torrey Pines Beach responses
- Loss of Training Opportunities
 - Only minimum training required for safety being provided
- Adjustments Made for Training
 - Pre-shift and in-service training modules developed
 - Winter training plan implemented

Incidents at Torrey Pines Beach (10/7 thru 10/31)

■ City Portion of Beach

- 2- Medical Aid
- 0- Water Rescues
- 0- Cliff Rescues
- 14- Preventative Actions
- 2-Enforcement
- 1 - Other calls for service

■ Non-City Portions of Beach

- 1- Medical Aid
- 0- Water Rescues
- 0- Cliff Rescues
- 12- Preventative Actions
- 1-Enforcement
- 2 - Other calls for service

Questions?